

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

To resolve the rejections and objections contained in the office action, Applicant presents the following amendments and requests that the Examiner amend the claims pursuant to the listing of claims which will replace all prior versions and/or listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Cancelled).

3-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 5, A method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising: forming a plurality of layers of wood into a stack, with a grain orientation of adjacent layers differing, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle, the crossing angle between adjacent layers less than 90°; and molding the stack with a resin in a mold to form a lamination comprising at least a portion of the musical instrument, and wherein the molding step, molding the stack in a closed mold having a cavity therein, wherein the cavity in the closed mold has a shape corresponding to the portion of the musical instrument, and cutting the plurality of layers into the shape of the~~

portion of the musical instrument prior to forming the plurality of layers into the stack.

7-11 (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 6, wherein the mold cavity is shaped to deform a portion of the stack and further comprising loading the stack into the mold tightly to be deformed by the mold cavity.

13. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 12, wherein the mold cavity includes rounded corners shape to deform edges of the stack to impart a rounded edge to the musical instrument.

14. (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 1, A method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising: forming a plurality of layers of wood into a stack, with a grain orientation of adjacent layers differing, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle, the crossing angle between adjacent layers less than 90°; and molding the stack with a resin in a mold to form a lamination comprising at least a portion of the musical instrument, and in the molding step, molding the stack between platens.~~

15. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 14, further comprising imparting a curve to the stack by using curved platens.

16. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 15, further comprising imparting an S-shaped curve to the stack.

17. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 14, further comprising machining the lamination to a shape corresponding to the portion of the musical instrument.

18-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 1, A method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising:~~ forming a plurality of layers of wood into a stack, with a grain orientation of adjacent layers differing, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle, the crossing angle between adjacent layers less than 90°; and molding the stack with a resin in a mold to form a lamination comprising at least a portion of the musical instrument, and wetting the plurality of layers with a resin prior to the molding step.

21. (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 1, A method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising:~~ forming a plurality of layers of wood into a stack, with a grain orientation of adjacent layers differing, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle, the crossing angle between adjacent layers less than 90°; and molding the stack with a resin in a mold to form a lamination comprising at least a portion of

the musical instrument, and infusing resin into the stack during the molding step.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 1, A method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising:~~ forming a plurality of layers of wood into a stack, with a grain orientation of adjacent layers differing, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle, the crossing angle between adjacent layers less than 90°; and molding the stack with a resin in a mold to form a lamination comprising at least a portion of the musical instrument, and wherein the wood layers comprise a vertical grain softwood.

25. (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 1, A method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising:~~ forming a plurality of layers of wood into a stack, with a grain orientation of adjacent layers differing, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle, the crossing angle between adjacent layers less than 90°; and molding the stack with a resin in a mold to form a lamination comprising at least a portion of the musical instrument, wherein at least a portion of the wood layers are tapered.

26. (Currently amended). The method of claim 1, A method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising: forming a plurality of layers of wood into a stack, with a grain orientation of adjacent layers differing, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle, the crossing angle between adjacent layers less than 90°; and molding the stack with a resin in a mold to form a lamination comprising at least a portion of the musical instrument, wherein the resin comprises an epoxy resin.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently amended). An electric guitar formed by the method of claim 1. a method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising: forming a plurality of layers of wood into a stack, with a grain orientation of adjacent layers differing, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle, the crossing angle between adjacent layers less than 90°; and molding the stack with a resin in a mold to form a lamination comprising at least a portion of the musical instrument.

29. (Currently amended). A bass guitar formed by the method of claim 1. a method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising: forming a plurality of layers of wood into a stack, with a grain orientation of adjacent layers differing, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle, the crossing angle between adjacent layers less than 90°; and

molding the stack with a resin in a mold to form a lamination comprising at least a portion of the musical instrument.

30-37 (Cancelled).

38. (Previously Presented). An electric stringed musical instrument comprising: a body, the body comprising a laminated stack of wood layers, including a recess formed in a top edge; a neck comprising a laminated stack of wood layers, an S-shaped bend formed in the wood layers, a lower extent of the neck forming a tongue received in the recess in the body, the neck further comprising a head and an upper surface on the stack of wood layers extending from the head to a tongue and overlying the S-shaped bend.

39. (Previously Presented). The electric stringed musical instrument of claim 38, wherein the instrument comprises an electric guitar.

40. (Previously Presented). The electric stringed musical instrument of claim 38, wherein the instrument comprises a bass guitar.

41-50 (Cancelled).

51. (Previously Presented). An electric stringed musical instrument comprising: a body comprising a laminated stack of wood layers, adjacent layers having differing grain orientations, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle, the crossing angle less than 90°; and a neck attached to the body, the neck comprising a laminated stack of wood

layers, adjacent layers having differing grain orientations, the grain orientations defining a crossing angle less than 90°.

52. (Previously Presented). The electric stringed musical instrument of claim 51 wherein the crossing angles are between 5° and 45°.

53. (Previously Presented). The electric stringed musical instrument of claim 51, wherein the crossing angles are between 10° and 15°.

54. (Previously Presented). The electric stringed musical instrument of claim 51, wherein the instrument comprises an electric guitar.

55. (Previously Presented). The electric stringed musical instrument of claim 51, wherein the instrument comprises a bass guitar.

56. (Currently amended). An electric guitar formed by ~~the method of claim 30. a method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising:~~ providing a stack of wood layers; molding the stack of wood layers between curved platens to impart an S-shaped bend to a portion of the stack with wood fibers maintained continuous along the S-shaped bend and to form a lamination comprising a neck of the musical instrument; and attaching the neck to a body of the musical instrument.

57. (Currently amended). A bass guitar formed by ~~the method of claim 30. a method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising:~~ providing a stack of wood layers; molding the stack of wood layers between curved platens to impart an S-shaped bend to a portion of the

stack with wood fibers maintained continuous along the S-shaped bend
and to form a lamination comprising a beck of the musical instrument;
and attaching the neck to a body of the musical instrument.

58. (Currently amended). An electric guitar formed by ~~the method of claim 35. a method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising:~~ cutting a plurality of wood layers into a shape of a body of a musical instrument; stacking the wood layers into a stack; molding the stack of wood layers in a mold cavity having rounded internal corners, the stack of wood layers loaded in the cavity, whereby rounded edges are formed on the stack of wood layers, to form a lamination comprising a body of the musical instrument and attaching a neck to the body of the musical instrument.

59. (Currently amended). A bass guitar formed by ~~the method of claim 35. a method of manufacturing a musical instrument comprising:~~ cutting a plurality of wood layers into a shape of a body of a musical instrument; stacking the wood layers into a stack; molding the stack of wood layers in a mold cavity having rounded internal corners, the stack of wood layers loaded in the cavity, whereby rounded edges are formed on the stack of wood layers, to form a lamination comprising a body of the musical instrument and attaching a neck to the body of the musical instrument.